Migration of rural labour

*116. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to launch a new scheme for discouraging migration of rural labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have identified the pockets of such migration in the country; and

(d) whether Government propose to consult the States before launching such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security to poor households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme would create additional wage employment opportunities in rural areas which will discourage migration of rural labour.

Kidnapping of children for organ theft

*118. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media reports on the kidnapping of children by organised gangs for organ theft;

(b) if so, the States where such gangs are active; and

(c) what action has been taken to protect the children by the Centre and the concerned States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Union Government has not come across any specific media report on the kidnapping of children by organised gangs for organ theft.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. However, the Government of India has from time to time been advising the State Governments to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against all vulnerable sections of society including children. With a view to deal with the menace of organised crimes effectively, all State Government/Union Territory Administration have been advised to set up Organised Crime Units (OCUs) to be headed by a senior Police Officer.

Loss of textile exports

*119. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India which was in the forefront in textile exports has largely lost its textile exports in the world market; and

(b) whether Government have gone into the causes for such loss of textile exports and evolve a new policy and strategy to regain its lost position in the world market and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per World Trade Organisation (WTO) data, India's percentage share in the global textiles and clothing trade has increased from 3.58% in 1995 to 4.03% in 2003.

(b) There have been certain inhibiting factors in realising a greater share of the world trade, such as, quota restrictions imposed by major importing countries (USA, EU member states and Canada); preferential trading arrangements entered into by some countries; and the increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh, etc. However, quota restrictions imposed by USA, EU Member states and Canada would end *w.e.f.* 1.1.2005, opening up fresh opportunities to India textile industry.

To prepare domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition, the following important announcements have been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

* Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option.